

REMARKS

Claims 12, 16, 20 and 25 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) for failing to be of proper dependent form. Claim 12 has been canceled and its subject matter added to claim 9. Claim 16 has been canceled and its subject matter added to claim 13. Claim 20 has been canceled and its subject matter added to claim 17. Claim 25 has been canceled and its subject matter added to claim 22. In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the objection to these claims is requested.

Claims 1-3 and 9-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rastegar ('094) or Rastegar ('477).

Claims 1-2 have been canceled.

With respect to claim 3, Applicant respectfully traverses. In claim 3, Applicant claims "the plurality of memory cells arranged in a plurality of groups" and "power control circuitry selectively coupled, one group at time." Rastegar teaches the reset functionality with respect to a single memory cell. There is no teaching or suggestion in Rastegar for arranging the plurality of memory cells in groups, and then selectively operating the power control circuitry, one group at a time, in order to transition the n-channel transistor source terminal from low to high to low voltage. The Examiner's analysis of claim 3 fails to indicate any support with respect to the Rastegar rejection for the grouping and selective coupling limitations of claim 3. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Rastegar fails to anticipate claim 3.

With respect to claim 9, Applicant has amended claim 9 to include the subject matter of dependent claim 12 (now canceled). Amended claim 9 is believed to distinguish over Rastegar for at least the same reasons as claim 3.

With respect to claim 13, Applicant has amended claim 13 to include the subject matter of dependent claim 16 (now canceled). Amended claim 13 is believed to distinguish over Rastegar for at least the same reasons as claim 3.

Claims 1-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rimondi.

Claims 1-2 have been canceled.

With respect to claim 3, Rimondi teaches the use of a control circuit implemented through delay functionality (FCD1 ... FCDq) to sequentially reset groups of memory cells. Claim 3 has been amended to recite that the power control circuitry comprises a counter and decoders circuit. There is no teaching or suggestion in Rimondi for the claimed power control circuitry containing both a counter and set of decoders configured to operate in the claimed manner.

Claims 6-8 have been canceled.

With respect to claim 9, Applicant have amended claim 9 in a manner analogous to claim 3, except that the claim recites method operations with respect to counting and decoding. Amended claim 9 is believed to distinguish over Rimondi for at least the same reasons as claim 3 since the claimed counting and decoding operations are neither taught nor suggested by Rimondi.

With respect to claim 13, Applicant have amended claim 13 in a manner analogous to claim 3. Amended claim 13 is believed to distinguish over Rimondi for at least the same reasons as claim 3.

Turning next to claim 17, Applicant has amended claim 17 to recite that the high/low reference terminal voltage transitions throughout the array of memory cells occur simultaneously. This is quite different from the sequential column delay-driven operations

taught by Rimondi with respect to the high/low reference terminals of the grouped cells of the array. Rimondi accordingly fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

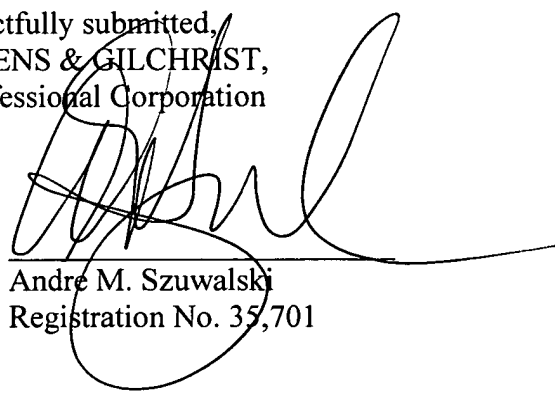
With respect to claim 22, Applicant has amended the claim to recite voltage driver circuitry for the power control circuitry which is operable to simultaneously transition high/low reference terminals of the cells across the entire array. Rimondi teaches a driver circuit which operates in a sequential delay-driven mode with respect to columns of the high/low reference terminals. Rimondi accordingly fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Lastly, with respect to claim 27, Applicant has amended the claim in a manner similar to claims 17 and 22, and submits that claim 27 is patentable over Rimondi for at least the same reasons as claims 17 and 22.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art.

Respectfully submitted,
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